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SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Reports of Soviet Economic Operations in Austria, 1945-1955

1. Several interested branches have carefully reviewed the draft papers relating to the Soviet economic complex in Austria during the occupation. For the most part we find them to be only of historical interest and generally remote from our present research program. From our point of view the study was too strongly oriented toward an evaluation of Soviet occupation policies in Austria rather than toward gaining insights by analogy into the Soviet economic system. Discussion relating to the Soviet economy is too generalized and superficial. In addition, the passage of time further limits the usefulness of much of the information especially in view of the substantial advances made since 1955 in obtaining a better understanding of Soviet statistical and accounting practices. In one instance, however, the section on SMM accounting practices may prove to be useful in defining terms used in Soviet literature.

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2. The statement in your memorandum that there are additional documents relating to the Soviet occupation is of interest to one of our branches engaged in studying various phases of Soviet military economics. Although the examined papers are of little direct value to them it was their feeling that the papers contained hints that additional data on military procedures might be available. Documents which contain information on the military aspects of the Austrian occupation might be an aid to our research effort in the fields of military logistical operations and maintenance. We would like to explore with you the possible existence of this kind of data.

3. In view of our present research priorities and the historic nature of the Austrian material we could not justify assigning a qualified analyst to your branch for the purpose of preparing an integrated report on Soviet economic operations in Austria. The present organization of much of this material would make writing such a report no small task. On the other hand, we recognize that this material

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contains a wealth of information that could be assembled into an interesting and historical report. It is our feeling that some Russian study center at a U.S. university would be well qualified and planned to put this material into proper perspective and publishable form.